GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3174
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF BIO DIESEL BY IOC
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has set up a Corporate Group to enter into the production and marketing of bio-diesel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been carried out by IOC on the various aspects of bio-diesel at its research plant; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d) Yes Sir, IOC has set up a Corporate Group in Sep. 2006 under Director Planning & Business Development). Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), through its R&D Centre is examining the complete value chain of Biodiesel through IOC. This covers IOC plantation, technology for biodiesel production, setting up of quality control labs, emission studies and field trials. IOC has also set-up biodiesel purchase centers as well as a group to study the economic viability of biodiesel production through IOC. Details of various biodiesel related activities undertaken by IOC are annexed.

DETAILS OF BIO-DIESEL RELATED ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY IOC

a) DEVELOPMENT OF BIODIESEL TRANS-ESTERIFICATION TECHNOLOGY

IOC (R&D) has examined and optimized the synthetic processes for the preparation of bio-diesel from various vegetable oils, which include oils from Rice bran, Jatropha curcas, Palm, Karanjia and Sunflower etc. The process has been scaled up to pilot plant level.

The developed technology was transferred to M/s Venus Ethoxyethers, Goa on non-exclusive basis and on nominal technology fee and royalty sharing mechanism.

b) JATROPHA PLANTATION ON RAILWAY LAND AT SURENDRA NAGAR

IOC has entered into a MoU with Indian Railways to study complete value chain of Biodiesel. In line with that, IOC has taken up plantation on 70 hectares of Railway land at Surendra Nagar in Gujarat. More than One lakh saplings of Jatropha have been planted at the site. This project is one of its kind in the country, where every aspect of Jatropha Biodiesel would be studied.

b) IOC (R&D) has conducted field trials with various blends of jatropha bio-diesel in diesel on railway locos and commercial vehicle.